

I am writing with great concern after hearing about Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to require their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary in the critical two week period before the Presidential election. I feel that this is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation, and runs counter to the spirit and duty of publicly funded radio programming. Put differently, this is how China may run their radio programming, but this is distinctly not how the United States of America is mandated to run it's own.

Sinclair is obligated by law to serve the public interest because it uses airwaves free of charge. When large companies control the airwaves, we are served up less unbiased programming and more manipulated messages that represent the opinions to sway public opinions in particular directions. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see news of our own communities and a broad range of opinions and perspectives on individual issues.

Sinclair's actions demonstrate why media ownership rules need to be taken very seriously and independent stations must be protected from corporate buyouts. They underscore exactly why the license renewal process must be reconsidered to check the undemocratic actions of powerful conglomerates from year to year. Thank you for your time and consideration of my views.